

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 06508 241537Z

70-60

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCA-01 INSE-00 /020 W

----- 026797

R 241522Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0651

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS LONDON 06508

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, UK, IN

SUBJ: VISIT OF SHREE PRAMUKH SWAMI SHASTRI SHREE

NARAYANSWARUPDASJI AND PARTY

1. CONSUL GENERAL HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM PRAFUL PATEL OF SWAMINARAYAN HINDU MISSION, LONDON, ENCLOSING A LIST OF 16 VISA APPLICANTS (WITH PROMISE OF MORE) CONSISTING OF SUBJECT AND HIS PARTY AND ENCLOSING COPY OF PATEL'S LETTER OF MAY 16 TO R.W. WHITE OF EMBASSY NEW DELHI (ADDITIONAL COPIES TO MR. DAVID SCHNEIDER, NEW DELHI; MR. DAVID BANE, BOMBAY; DENNIS KUX, INDIAN DESK, DEPT.) RECALLING A MEETING IN JANUARY CONCERNING A PROPOSED VISIT TO U.S. OF SUBJECT. LETTER ALLEGES THAT WHITE HAD "AGREED THAT VISAS FOR THE ENTIRE PARTY COULD BE ISSUED FROM LONDON."
2. LONDON PUZZLED AS TO WHY VISAS COULD NOT BE ISSUED IN INDIA AND ASSUMES NO SUCH COMMITMENT FOR ISSUANCE IN LONDON WAS MADE AS ALLEGED. HOWEVER, BEFORE WE EXPLORE MATTER WITH PATEL, WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENT FROM NEW DELHI.
3. BECAUSE OF HIGH VOLUME AND STAFF, LONDON HAS FOR SOME TIME REQUIRED AT LEAST 24 HOURS FOR PROCESSING VISA APPLICATIONS (EXCEPT IN CASES OF EMERGENCY) AND HAS BEEN DISCOURAGING APPLICATIONS BY TRANSIENTS WHO HAVE TRAD-

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ITIONALLY FELT LONDON WAS A CONVENIENT POINT TO STOP

OFF FOR VISAS. OTHER THAN IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, NON
RESIDENTS ARE ROUTINELY INFORMED OF DELAYS UP TO TWO
MONTHS WHILE CLEARANCES OBTAINED FROM HOME CONSULAR
DISTRICTS.

SOHM

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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